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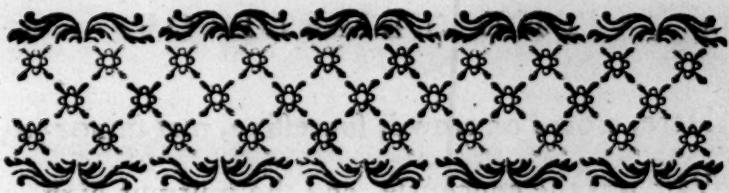
THE
TEMPLE
OF
MAMMON.

*Prima ferè vota, et cunctis notissima Templis
Divitiæ ut crescant, ut Opes.*

JUV.

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THE
TEMPLE of MAMMON.

F A S T by th' Emporium * of G R E A T B R I-
T A I N ' s I s l e ,

Where tow'rs A U G U S T A ' s † new imperial Pile,
Indulgent to my wish, I enter'd there,
The mansion full of treasure and of care.
Here, in his order, each intendant rang'd,
The mighty staple of the world exchang'd:

* The Royal Exchange. † The New Bank.

Here,

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Here, crowd on crowd, successive, met mine eye ;
Vast was the concourse, and the murmur high,
Whilst all around, the stream of business flow'd,
The active scene with art and ardour glow'd.
Still, as the various gates and doors unfold,
New windings lead through labyrinths of gold :
There, piles on piles, in pyramids, arise ;
And here, the dazzling heap expanded lies :
Revolving COMMERCE o'er the whole presides,
Incessant as the ebb and flow of tides.

Led by the pleasing progress of the day,
I parted thence and homeward bent my way.
To home retir'd, and on my couch reclin'd,
What wild ideas fleeted o'er my mind !
Pond'ring the various views of distant climes,
The bustle, and the peril of the times ;

What

What dextrous hand, what master key, unlocks
The springs that move the fluctuating stocks ?
If by **BATAVIAN** wealth they fell or rose,
That, as the **NILE**, both rich and sordid flows :
What public credit's current still maintains,
Which dire venality for ever drains !
What mighty pow'r directs the changeful fates
Of rising empires, and of falling states !
Thus musing laid, when caught by soft repose,
This *visionary* scene before me rose :

Methought, as wing'd in air, I soar'd on high,
The prostrate earth expanded to my eye ;
There, **ASIA**'s * climes, by tyranny debas'd ;
Here, Europe's realms, with art and science grac'd ;

* Once the seat of empire and of learning.

There,

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There, AFRIC, nurse of slaves,--a wretched land;
Here, the NEW WORLD aspiring to command;
There, aw'd by armies, spacious tracts immur'd;
Here, ALBION's islands by her fleets secur'd:
Dominion was their aim, and hostile all
Devis'd the projects of each other's fall.

Unsocial view! when, on the nether plain,
Loud as a deluge sweeping from the main
Rush'd forth a multitude, and as they pour'd
Amidst the throng, a mighty fabric tower'd;
So broad, so high, so eminently proud,
As of the world the capital it stood.
Radiant the summit, as when PHOEBUS shrouds
His ev'ning beams in vari'gated clouds.
On rock of adamant the basis laid,
A wavy splendor all around display'd.

Arduous

Arduous the steep, yet tempting all to try,
With strange enchantment drew the gazer's eye.
Here, thick engrav'd, inscriptions seem'd design'd
To mark the common record of mankind ;
Rivals in wealth, and anxious to declare,
This all their fame, their happiness, and care.
The work appear'd begun, in ages past,
Increas'd by time, with time itself to last.

On this foundation MAMMON's temple stands,
As rear'd by something more than mortal hands.
Wide swell'd the dome, sustain'd by pillars bold,
Of various jasper, interlaid with gold ;
The polish'd convex, uniformly bright,
Look'd like a perfect globe of chrysolite.
A thousand gates, of precious metal made,
Their shining aspects ev'ry way display'd ;

Grav'd

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Grav'd with these cyphers, pointing far and near,
“ Let all the nations of the earth come here !”

The walls adorning, sculptur'd fable told
The deeds of deities, and chiefs of old.
Here, JOVE descended in a golden show'r,
And DANAE yielded to its sov'reign pow'r.
Three glitt'ring orbs check'd ATALANTA's pace,
By these the tempted maiden lost the race.
VENUS, on IDA's top, to win the prize,
Reveal'd her beauties to the shepherd's eyes.
Amidst the pirate sons of ancient GREECE,
There JASON triumph'd with the golden fleece.
MIDAS, for thirst of gold, with madness fir'd,
Well-nigh a martyr to his wish expir'd.
With yellow hue PACTOLUS' stream was stain'd,
His avarice indelible remain'd.

Misers,

Misers, and spendthrifts, diff'rent cares employ'd ;
By those were riches heap'd, by these destroy'd.

High o'er the gates each frontispiece appear'd,
On columns of the diff'rent orders rear'd :
The *Tuscan* strong and plain ; and all complete
Arose the *Doric*, regularly great.
Mild and majestic was th' *Ionic* plac'd,
And airy too, with its own volute grac'd.
The Sculptor's * skill the rich *Corinthian* shew'd,
And the *Acanthus* softest charms bestow'd
With these were others of a kindred kind,
By modern artists variously defin'd.

The *Western* fronts the tragic fates contain'd
Of mighty empires fall'n, where Mammon reign'd.

* See the story of **CALLIMACHUS**.

On trampled Greece the artful *Philip* stood,
Disjoin'd her states with gold, and then subdu'd.
O'er the great orator the vase prevail'd,
Whose virtue **MACEDON** in vain assail'd.

Treasure on treasure pil'd, *Jugurtha* brought;
Rome, like a slave, stood ready to be bought.
There might be seen, as by some magic charm,
The patriot fetter'd, shrunk the hero's arm.

Alien to truth, was eloquence o'erpower'd;
Justice herself the sword and balance lower'd.

BRITANNIA here, unwieldy and too great,
Like weary'd **ATLAS**, shrinks beneath her weight.
At sight of gold, as smitten by the eyes
Of the dread basilisk, **FAIR FREEDOM** dies.

The *Eastern* fronts beyond compare, were bright,
And pour'd a flood of splendor on my sight.

There

M A M M O N.

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There mighty monarchs shone, who first began
To war for lucre, and to plunder man.

Here, CYRUS fam'd for ASIATIC sway,
Before him BABYLON in ruins lay.
Aghast, and calling oft on SOLOMON's name,
He rescu'd CROESUS from the fun'r'al flame.

Infatiate and untir'd, was PHILIP's son,
Wailing his fate, though all the world he won.

Craffus * for gain assum'd the sword and shield,
The plund'rer fell in the embattled field :
Betray'd, despoil'd, here NABOBS naked stood
'Midst christian heroes, crimson'd o'er with blood.

Grav'd on the Southern fronts, the regions shone,
Stretch'd flaming wide, beneath the torrid zone.

* He was killed fighting against the Parthians.

Rome's

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Rome's mighty rival once, and ocean's queen, †
I look'd to see, but not a trace was seen.

Some curious cyphers, deep impress'd in gold,
Of ancient story the dark records told.

Pygmalion there, Sichæus wealth obtain'd,
And, with a brother's blood the altar stain'd.
Here, daring mariners new worlds disclose,
And Indian conqu'rors to my view arose.

Borne from the mines, fast by La Plata's stream,
The diamond glow'd in brilliancy supreme.
Highly emboss'd, Potosi's mountains shines,
The tawny lab'rer fainting in his mines.

There, *Panama* in choicest sculpture wrought ;
Here, fleets with Europe's precious mischiefs
fraught.

† Carthage.

O'er

O'er this rich clime the poor IBERIA reigns,
And what she got by blood, by blood maintains.

In *Gothic* stile, the *Northern* fronts I view'd,
Rough was the sculpture, and the figures rude.
By wealthier regions lur'd, a hostile swarm
Of fierce Barbarians there for plunder arm ;
Undisciplin'd they move, they rush from far,
And fiercer ATTILA drives on the war :
The *Western* realm his ruthless armies waste,
And scatter desolation o'er the east.
The headlong host before it all o'eturns,
As a flood sweeps, or conflagration burns ;
While from the havock of these barb'rous foes,
BRITANNIA's genius, LIBERTY arose.

A war-

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A war-like form,* more recent, here stood forth,
And, blazing, seem'd a meteor of the North ;
Pregnant with ire, its rapid vortex hurl'd,
Alarm'd, and menac'd to inflame the world.

There Turks and Russians were in battle mix'd,
The sabre brandish'd, and the bayonet fix'd :
These, pouring headlong like a furious flood ;
And those like rocks, in vain assaulted stood,
For POLAND's spoilers either army bled,
Her realm diffever'd, and her monarch fled.

As when the hours unbar the gates of light,
A blaze of radiance bursting on the sight,
The temple open'd ; while the gazing crowd,
As erst the PERSIANS, lowly kneel'd and bow'd,

* The King of Prussia.

Now,

Now, swiftly borne from the *Aetherial* plain,
I view'd th' internal glories of the fane ;
Amazing sight ! here ample vaults were stor'd
With ev'ry treasure earth and sea afford :
Their breadths immense, beyond my view extend ;
Their depths as low as TARTARUS descend.

In rich *Mosaic* was the pavement wrought,
Beyond what artful Greece or Rome had taught :
Stones of all forms and hues, together laid,
Their shades the pencil's imag'ry display'd :
From the bright texture various figures shoot,
Th' Hesperian garden, and the golden fruit.
The signs and seasons of the circling year,
And PLENTY's horn were tasseled here :
Here with superior skill and glowing tint,
The splendid labours of AUGUSTA's mint

Spread

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Spread wide around ;—the adverse beams entwin'd
Of the rude bullion and the ore refin'd.
The burnish'd *Lamen* by the artist struck,
Rounded and mill'd the regal image took :
Bespangled thus, the chequer'd carpet lay,
Not more the radiance of the milky-way.

Borne on Colossal columns, rang'd around,
With architraves of gold and beryl crown'd,
Th' effulgent roof reflected various dyes,
As the rich concave of the starry skies.

Wide o'er the walls the scenes of human life;
Display'd a picture of mysterious strife.
Their diff'rent hues, *peace, war, and commerce*
wore,
And *politics* a *PROTEUS* semblance bore.

And

And here th' exalted idol of an hour,
The statesman struggled to maintain his pow'r ;
Surrounding crowds, incessant, seem'd to crave,
And still dissatisfy'd, whate'er he gave.
Discarded now, another to his place
Succeeds, and quits it with the like disgrace.
There, tyrant party diff'rent aspects shew'd,
Yet with the same envenom'd spirit glow'd ;
Triumphant now, he leads his conqu'ring bands,
And FACTION scatters libels from her hands.
For civil broil her trump SEDITION blows,
The people's fury, like an HYDRA, rose.
Patriots and demagogues, here play'd their parts,
All for their country—MAMMON at their hearts.
Fast by the groupe, a groveling Form* was plac'd,
Wreath'd as a snake, and by itself embrac'd.

* Self-Interest.

Now, by the god of eloquence and theft,
Were senates of their sense and gold bereft.
Her wonted meed CREDULITY receiv'd,
Still to believe, and still to be deceiv'd.
AMBITION there, with giant effort, strove
To grasp at heav'n, and seize the throne of Jove.
Here, ADULATION crawl'd, like ivy twin'd,
And its own prop, the pillar undermin'd.
By length of craving rankled, AV'RICE grey,
With renovated passion, pin'd away.
Source of disease, soft foe to human kind,
Lay LUXURY, on PLENTY's lap reclin'd.
The bloated SYREN* wrap'd in purple robe,
More fell than arms, aveng'd the conquer'd globe.

* Sævior Armis, &c.

On a secreted altar met mine eyes
The various figures of a sacrifice ;
The temple's priests stood forth, with holy leer ;
The moral virtues were the victims here.
Honour, without a blush, was truck'd for gold,
And *Virgin* Beauty, by its parent, sold.
Seduc'd by *Mammon*'s lure, *fair Virtue*'s train
Were captive led, and sacrific'd to gain.

High on a throne, apart, was *Mammon* rais'd,
That o'er all earthly thrones superior blaz'd :
More wealth, more treasure, was devoted here
Than superstition ever paid to fear.
Eyeless he sat, and idol-like enshrin'd,
Crippled he seem'd before and wing'd behind :*

* Alluding to the observation that riches are slow in their approach, and swift in their departure.

With a rich diadem his head was bound ;
Beneath his feet were globes and scepters found ;
Garters and stars, and all those brilliant things,
Ambition's trappings, and the pride of kings.
Two hideous forms † awaited his commands,
BRIAREUS-like, but with a thousand hands ;
Both skill'd in all the arts of smooth address,
One to corrupt, the other to oppress ;
To teach whole senates wisely to beguile,
And public villains murder with a smile.
Around the godhead, these obsequious move,
And constant as the *Satellites* of Jove.

The temple shook throughout at *Mammon's* call
Th' expectant crowd, tumultuous fill'd the hall,

† BRIBERY and TAXATION.

Thick,

Thick, as when locusts, warping from the east,
The labours of some fruitful clime to waste ;
The dreadful host disast'rous darkness brings,
And all the air is beat with hostile wings.
A motley sight their various garbs appear,
As when the forests Autumn's liv'ry wear.
Various their speech ; yet, as from ev'ry tongue,
“ Hear us, Oh, MAMMON ! ” through the temple
rung :

But some more loudly join'd in this request,
“ Oh ! grant to make us richer than the rest.”

Now, in full majesty, the god appear'd,
And bade the diff'rent orders to be heard.
Rude was the press ; and here you might behold
The chief pre-eminence conferr'd on gold.

First,

First, to the shrine crept forth a sordid train,
How to amass sore vex'd with mental pain ;
Pallid and gaunt, they seem'd as out of breath,
And, like the poor ARACHNE, spun to death.
In the low whine of poverty preferr'd,
These mutter'd oraisons were scarcely heard :
“ Great giver of all good, increase our store,
“ We beg but little,—and a little *more*.
“ Servants and slaves to thee, alone, we break
“ The very ties of nature for thy sake.”
The god approv'd, and as he lib'ral pour'd
His treasures forth, as thankless they devour'd :
Through, scornful hissing, these departing went.
With all but what he could not give, *Content*.

King's now advanc'd, in bright *regalia* dres'd,
And to the god their sev'ral vows express'd.

One

One nobly asks, "confer thy aid on me,
" To make my people happy, great, and free :"
With low servility, another craves
The pow'r to bribe his subjects into slaves.
These sov'reign suppliants, bending to the throne,
Confess his pow'r superior to their own ;
That o'er mankind a tyrant MAMMON reigns,
And, at his pleasure, scatters crowns and chains.
Next mov'd an aweful band, who hold the helm
Of state, and legislators of the realm ;
So plac'd so pension'd and so titled o'er,
* Methought such mighty ones could seek no more.
Their patents new, *reversionary grants*
Were all too little for their many wants ;
A further boon they court, to him appeal
For their vast service to the public weal :

These,

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These, save a few, in MAMMON's int'rest join'd,
Were to his impious ministers consign'd ;
A patriot *few*, who, for their country, strive
To keep a spark of virtue yet alive ;
And ONE * who scorn'd an idol's pow'r to own,
Bold and erect, stood forth before the throne ;
Not to implore the deity he came,
But public virtue's bright reward to claim ;
This glorious motto sparkling on his breast,
I SAV'D MY COUNTRY—mark'd him from the
rest.

Not less devout than when at sacred pray'r,
A *mitred* train approach'd with solemn air ;

* Lord CHATHAM.

Like

Like zealous servants, round the shrine they stand,
With a *demonivre* in each holy hand,
Their oracle ; they seem'd to calculate,
How to support the pride of church and state ;
How to maintain their rights, increase their fees ;
To make renewals, and exchange their sees.
Let pure religion and the world upbraid,
Here their idolatry was amply paid ;
Yet here, apart, I spy'd a pious few,
Friends to the world, and to religion too.

Now forward press'd, the brethren of the law,
And round the throne a sable phalanx draw ;
Pleadings and pleas importunate were join'd,—
Happy had MAMMON been as deaf as blind !
Their subtle eloquence engag'd his ear ;
For honest reas'ning had no int'rest here ;

That for his sake, perverting oft the laws,
They strove to make the worse the better cause ;
To make chicane o'er equity prevail,
But wise and upright LIFFORD held the scale.
That acts were fram'd and constru'd as they list,
And senates, void of them, could not exist ;
That they dispos'd of property and life,
And MAMMON's pow'r arose from civil strife.
The god decreed, such able friends obtain'd,
Should in his service ever be retain'd.

Physicians pleaded next their watchful care,
The breaches of intemp'rance to repair.
Here mix'd pretenders, who their merit place
In size of wig, and mystery of face ;
Except in worming fees, but little skill'd,
Their patients they, at random, cur'd or kill'd.

There

There sages stood, who labour'd to regain
Health from disease, from misery, and pain ;
When for her dissolution sore afraid,
These study'd nature, and afforded aid ;
Oft they reviv'd, restor'd the parting breath,
And snatch'd the arrow from the hand of death.
Such as thus deeply skilled, the god for these,
Allots increase of fame, increase of fees.

Next, to beseech the god, the learned came ;
But these were deem'd as rich enough in fame ;
Tho' from their labours, man instruction gains,
Praise was sufficient to reward their pains.
The muses seldom MAMMON's favours share,
Their fortune is to build, and live on air.

Now, at the throne, appear'd a modest few,
Whose mien and language deep attention drew ;

Great in themselves, their looks, at once, impart
The soft, and noble feelings of the heart.

“ Since all mankind thy mighty pow’r confess,

“ Let us, thy honour’d GODHEAD, here ad-
“ dress.

“ Riches we neither worship, nor despise;

“ No, ’tis their proper use alone we prize.

“ Lodg’d in the earth, for man to bring them
“ forth,

“ By heav’ns design, and shew their real worth,

“ Their use and end ; and these when understood,

“ Are acts of private, and of public good.

“ For us, whose sole ambition but aspires

“ To what the happy, golden mean, requires ;

“ Who seek not passions to depress or raise,

“ But live, at once, with dignity and ease ;

“ Thy gifts with friendship and distress to share,

“ Grant us but this, more is not worth our care.”

The

The god, with pleasure, their demand supplies,
And seem'd, as if for once, he had his eyes.
All hail'd, rever'd; the godlike band withdrew,
Bless'd in themselves, and blessing others too.

The sons of MAVORS, rang'd in thick array,
Set forth the toils of many a well-fought day.
“ Great pow'r ! the sinew and the nerve of war,
“ Regard the soldier's honourable scar ;
“ 'Tis glory, chiefly, that supports his trade ;
“ For risk, and loss of life, but poorly paid :
“ Oft his commander bears the spoil away,
“ And leaves him but the triumph of the day.”
The god pronounc'd, with heroes though enroll'd,
The soldier's laurels must be imp'd with gold.

Now forward rush'd a rude and boist'rous train,
Who brave the tempests in pursuit of gain;
Whom

Whom no extremes of peril cou'd control,
Endur'd, by turns, beneath the line and pole.
And here, a group distinguish'd from the rest,
With freedom thus the deity address'd.

“ We, heroes of the ocean, claim our due,
“ Who fight for *Britain's* throne, and *Mammon's*
too ;

“ Guardians of commerce, round the globe we
“ roam,

“ And bear the treasures of both *Indies* home.”
Full freighted now with gold, the jovial band,
What they had gain'd by sea, dispers'd by land.
Great *Mammon* spoke, “ go, hye you to the main,
“ And seek me in your element again.”

At last, a noisy, vagrant, idle crew,
Devoid of care, pour'd thick upon my view :

As round the world's great system atoms dance,
Restless they mov'd, and seem'd to live by chance ;
Poor thoughtless wretches, of a various kind,
Who flock'd to catch the favours of the blind,
As thrown at random ; but on whom they fell,
Lucky or not, my *Vision* could not tell.

Such was the noise, their adoration o'er,
As when contending winds through caverns roar.
Full of their god, and of themselves, the crowd
In wantonness proclaim'd his pow'r aloud.
Exalted now beyond a mortal sphere,
Spurning at earth, they seem'd to tread in air :
Born on the wings of vanity and pride,
They scorn'd the world, and Heav'n itself defy'd.

Whilst of the fane these wonders I survey'd,
All was, at once, envelop'd in a shade ;

As suff'ring an eclipse, the orb of light,
Its paler glories faded on my sight.
Darkness and silence, brooding deep, around,
Sudden burst forth a trumpet's dreadful sound ;
Such as before had never pierc'd mine ear,—
The NATIONS trembled, NATURE shrunk with
fear.

Such was the shrill and solemn clangor spread,
As unto judgment may awake the dead ;
From pole to pole, these aweful accents flew,
YOUR GOD YOU CANNOT SERVE AND
MAMMON TOO.

Truth rous'd my senses from their lowly bed ;
The TEMPLE vanish'd, and the VISION fled.

F I N I S.